

QUA·RAE

HERE IS NEWS OF ... RADIO ASSN OF ERIE

VOLUME III, No. 2

February, 1972

RAE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES . . .	2
From the Log (Ham History) . . .	3
UA3 QSL (Look Alike Problems) . . .	3
Assistance Ham Style	3
DX Contest Info	4
RADIO VS SUN (Serialized Special) . .	4
Extra Class for K3DDK	4
HAM OF THE MONTH Leo Weiner, W3IOS	5
SSB	6
Assault on a Landmark (Funnny) . .	6
THE REPEATER STORY	7
Schematic of System	11
Letters from Readers	10
Strays	12
Activities	13
Calendar	14
Too Late to Mention	15

TEMPORARY EDITOR

Robert E. Bair, WA3HDK 725-9226

CONTRIBUTORS

Chuck Lewis, K3ATZ	838-2862
Mike Hall, WA3HSR	833-9649
Chuck Manross, WA3KAI	455-8829
Charles A. Bliley, K3NAU	866-1132
Powell Brown, K3QAY	899-4843
Dick Shreeve, W3PIX	866-7478
John Squire, K3UPC	833-1603
Bob Smith, K3WTZ	833-9037
Charlie Smith, W3ZIO	868-3138

Don't Forget . . .

Business Meeting - February 3
VHF Society Meeting - February 6
Activity Meeting - February 24

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THIS MONTH - ERIE S PART IN THE REPEATER SCENE

RAE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 1972

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 PM by President, K3QAY.

Officers present: K3QAY, W3ZLO, WA3HSR and WA3EAY.

Directors present: WA3HDK, K3VLP, W3SN, K3UPC, WA3MAU, and WA3KAI.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved with corrections. The correction concerning Field Day chairman now reads, "K3QAY appointed K3NAU as Field Day chairman and WA3ISN as assistant chairman," instead of that stated earlier.

The treasurer, WA3EAY indicated a new balance of \$360.35 with all bills paid.

CORRESPONDENCE: The only correspondence during the month were new 1972 membership renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The following committees had reports.

QUA-RAE - WA3HDK reported the January issue would be mailed on the 10th. Bob also reported that the cost of the bulletin was up to \$28.00 this issue with the increased use of pictures, but he hoped it would be offset somewhat by ad sales.

CD - W3KPM was not present. W3ZLO reported on initial plans being developed for SET which occurs on the 29th and 30th of January. Chuck encouraged all stations to check in on local traffic nets and be prepared for a unique test of abilities this year.

ACTIVITIES - W3ZLO reported on upcoming activities. The following activities were listed.

JANUARY 20 - Slide presentation of Apollo XV moonwalk and ride. Along with a program on the Russian space program.

FEBRUARY - Speakers about the MARS services. Army, Navy and Air Force

MARCH - 41-V clinic for locals to solve problems with their 41-V 2 meter gear.

APRIL - Willie Manola, W3WBA, of Mini Products, Inc.

REPEATER - K3QAY read a letter to those present from K3WTZ listing Bob's personal investment of repeater equipment. In the letter, Bob stated that if the club reimburse him for the maintenance on equipment now in use, he would lease it to the club for \$1.00. On a motion by K3VLP, that "the membership present concur with the results of the Board of Directors negotiations regarding the leasing of repeater equipment," it was seconded by K3QHO, voted on and carried. Also discussed were several ideas for relocating the receiver and transmitter sites.

ARRL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - W3ZLO reminded all of the latest election results for Director, with W3EPC and W3KT being reelected.

OLD BUSINESS

WA3HSR reminded all of RAE participation in the ARRL DX contests in February and March. Mike reported that an antenna party would be called soon. K3NAU reported that he had not located a new addressograph for the club. Chuck also suggested the possibility of moving the RAE Field Day site to the field next to Bliley Electric. More on this later.

NEW BUSINESS

K3VLP suggested that the club as a whole sell fire extinguishers and give the profits to the repeater committee. George also gave several other possibilities for sellable goods. Pertaining to the fire extinguishers, K3QHO showed all present a sample of the ones available. Jim reported the cost and retail prices and said that the selling period would be limited to a ten day period by company regulations. Cost would be \$4.52 and retail would be \$5.95. K3VLP moved, "that a committee be formed to sell Amway products for the benefit of the

(continued on page 3)

Minutes (continued)

repeater committee." The motion was seconded by K3UPC, voted on and carried. K3QHO was appointed to chair the committee by K3QAY.

K3VLP suggested that the RAE members participate in the WPPN using volunteer operators and W3ENP equipment. After much discussion it was decided that no action be taken and the matter be dropped.

WA3HSR asked for a motion, "that the RAE pay the required \$30.00 fee for renewal of their bulk mailing permit." It was so moved by W3SN, seconded by K3UPC, voted on and carried.

A motion for adjournment was heard from W3SN at 9:52 PM, seconded by K3NAU, voted on and carried.

There were 19 members and 1 guest present.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Michael Hall, WA3HSR
Secretary, RAE

FROM THE LOG

Ever hear of FRANK L. DUNN? He is the only Erie Ham listed in a 1913 Government Call Book.

"8EC, DUNN, FRANK L., 23 West Eleventh St., Erie, Pa., 1000 WATTS" is the listing. Other stations in this old call book show powers from 12 watts up to the full K.W. shown for Frank Dunn.

W3BKM has a copy of the 1913 call book and let us have a look at it.

"3GV" in that book is listed as belonging to Joseph M. Laber, 2422 Gratz St., Philadelphia, Pa., 15 watts power was shown.

"3QN" was listed as belonging to Harvey A. Zinszer, 920 South Sixth St., Allentown, Pa. His power was 120 watts at that time.

UA3 QSL All That Glitters

Recently while getting together my QSL cards for DXCC I had a rather unusual experience. I picked the best-looking of all my UA3 cards and sent it along with 99 others to the ARRL for my long-overdue DXCC award. In a few days I received a letter from the ARRL telling me that they were giving me credit for 99 cards but not for the UA3 card I had enclosed. I immediately checked the log and I had indeed had a contact with a UA3GM on this date and time. After carefully looking at the Russian card I found very small and probably in very good Russian the Letters "SWL" in the box marked Xmitter. On the bottom of the card was also the call UA3170340 which I found out later was the SWL call issued by the government. After investigating the situation further, I found that in Russia one must go thru a period as an SWL with a call assigned by the government before he can become a radio amateur. All the SWL mail goes through Box 88, Moscow just as the Amateur mail does. I then went through my other QSL cards on the wall and found I had two more of these Russian cards that were SWL -- even though they looked like QSL cards. The cards contain all the information a QSL card does and, believe me, are very easy to confuse with "the real thing." The only distinguishing mark I can find is in that block marked "transmitter". A QSL card will identify the transmitter and a SWL card will say "SWL". Gud DXing to U.

Dick Shreve, W3PIX

ASSISTANCE HAM STYLE

K3WTZ operating K3QAY/Mobile answered a request for assistance from W8DUH via the K3ZLO repeater on January 4. The K3QAY mobile proceeded to a pay phone at Glenwood Zoo where a repairman was working. He called the State Police using his test set. Since Bob and Brownie were surveying a new site for the repeater transmitter, K3NAU stood by as back-up until the emergency team reached the accident.

DX CONTEST INFO

Attention area DXers! For the second straight year, the RAE will be slugging it out with QRM, QRN and other competitors in the annual DX Competition. W3GV one of the BIG voices of 3-land will be prowling the bands for DX contacts and rare countries once again. In its first try last year, W3GV worked over 130 countries and scored over 100,000 points. With better antennas on 15 and 20 meters this score will undoubtedly be increased. Once again, the RAE will be using the equipment at the Emergency Operating Center on Wagner Road. This includes beams on 10 - 15 - 20 and dipoles on both 40 and 75; the Invader 2000 will be running a full gallon on all bands. It looks like W3GV will be a winner this year.

If you would like to take a look at the layout, or help us log and operate during the weekend, please come forth. We are glad to have you. The phone weekends will be February 5, 6 and March 4, 5. The CW periods will be February 19, 20 and March 18, 19. Times will be from 0001 on the first day - 2359 GMT on the second day for all periods. This gives a full 48 hours to operate. We hope to have the station going all the time, trying to get in as much experience and scoring as possible. It will take almost as many operators as Field Day if it is not to become a burden on those who do show up. If you would like to participate, contact WA3HSR (833-9649) almost any evening, we'll be glad to help you get your feet wet in DX.

-Mike, WA3HSR

First of a series

RADIO VS SUN.

Round I - Introduction

Soon after one becomes an amateur radio operator, he becomes aware of the fact that signals on the bands are varying constantly in signal strength and quality. After asking about, he is hit with the "Sun Spot Cycle" reason for propa-

gation variations. What on earth (or out of it) is this cycle, and what does it have to do with radio propagation?

If one takes a quick glance at the sun, he will see a bright, seemingly constant glowing ball of gasses. If he follows his curiosity, however, he begins to see an ever changing picture which grows more complex with each new discovery. Some of these observed changes taking place on the sun seem to be dependent upon time. The solar cycle is one of these. The solar cycle is a show which takes eleven years to complete. During the show we see featured spectacular groups of sunspots, fiery explosions of flares and the ever changing field of magnetics. As we observe the whole show we also note peculiar activities on earth which seem to occur with the acts of the solar cycle. We see radio wave absorption and reflection, sharp magnetic disturbances in our atmosphere and brilliant auroral displays. It is hoped that this series of articles will help correlate the solar phenomena with those observed terrestrial effects.
(to be continued)

Mike, WA3HSR

EXTRA CLASS FOR K3DDK

Bill Watson, K3DDK, who served as secretary in the R.A.E. while he was still attending Cathedral Prep, is now a Lt. Commander in the Navy and finishing out his residency in Dermatology at a Naval Hospital in Norfolk, VA.

Recently, when Dr. Watson learned that the F.C.C. Norfolk office was in his neighborhood, he took a morning off from his hospital duties and dropped into the F.C.C. office. There he upgraded his conditional status by taking and passing three Amateur exams: General, Advanced and Extra Class. The Radio Inspector noted that Bill was the first to accomplish this feat at the Norfolk F.C.C. office.

Bill is on 40 meters C.W. using a make-shift antenna and hoping to get into Erie. So, if you hear K3DDK/4 calling CQ, give him a call. He'll appreciate it.

W3LOS LEO WEINER

H A M O F T H E M O N T H

Every once in a while, you come across a near professional in the amateur ranks—one who excells at some aspect of amateur radio. So it is with this month's "Ham of the Month" Leo Weiner, W3LOS.

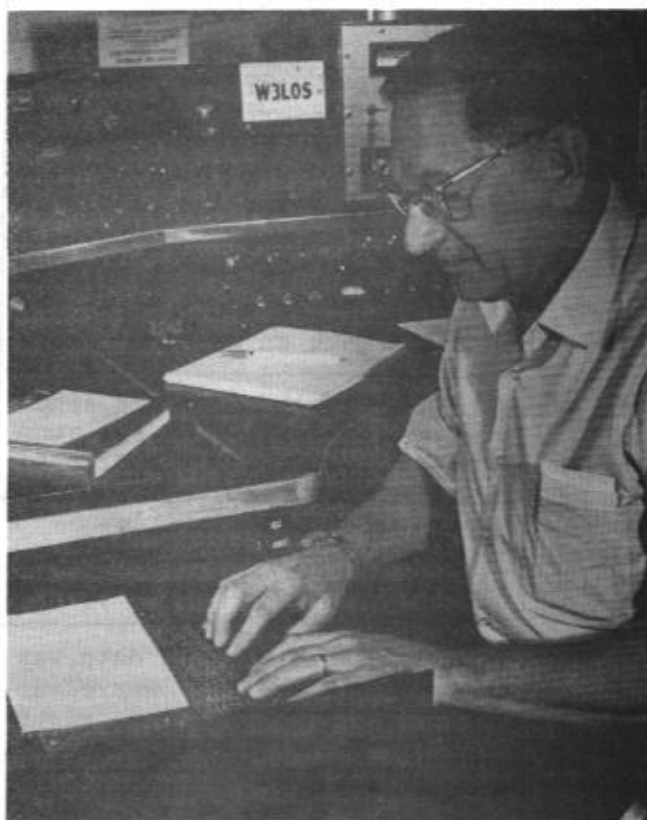
Leo was first licensed on December 16, 1930. As W8BSE he sported a 30 watt single tube oscillator on CW. Why only on CW? "It was during the depression, and hard enough to get the 30 watt oscillator on the air, much less have money for modulating equipment!"

So out of necessity Leo was on CW, but learned to love it. It was an age of the first diode and triode tubes, and he even remembers "when the first screen grid tube was announced." In these early years Leo's operating was more or less typical, with a lot of rag chewing; but he found he was enjoying traffic handling more and spent most of his time doing so until World War II started, and all amateur radio activities ceased

During World War II, Leo, along with a number of other Erie area amateur radio operators participated in the war emergency radio service which provided a civilian defense type of communications service for the community.

After a bit of inactivity following WW II Leo updated his equipment with a Heathkit AT-1 (35 Watt transmitter) and soon found himself building a 150-watt amplifier to aid him in chasing some of that elusive DX on twenty meters. When he got his DXCC (125 countries worked) the challenge was gone.

Ever since then Leo has been mostly handling traffic and enjoys using his homebrew electronic telekeyer. I tried the keyer, and if I wasn't such a dyed-in-the-wool phone operator, my next project would be just such a set. It is beautiful CW with a typewriter style control and no tricky adjustments or fatigue.



Leo works the Western Pennsylvania CW net almost every night and acts as manager for it. The WPA net is but one part of the national system of networks for message handling which prides itself in handling a great deal of traffic. Leo says some of the most embarrassing, but most pleasing, messages of all is the annual Valentines delivered to numerous girls from their beaus.

Even though Leo spends many hours a day at the rig, he never-the-less takes good care of himself. By walking to and from work each and every day, hiking and birdwatching, Leo manages to keep in very good shape and good health. Additionally, he enjoys stamp collecting and piano playing on the grand piano which occupies a prominent spot in the living room.

For a fellow who learned code by himself just to understand those strange signals at the top of his broadcast receiver in 1927, Leo Weiner has come a long way. He can be proud of his past as well as the present, and stands today as one of the few truly proficient and professional type radio amateurs who are an asset to amateur radio, and to his community which he serves so well.

Charles Bliley, K3NAU

SSB

Sale, Swap, Buy

For Sale National NC109 Gen. Coverage Receiver with 6m converter, VTVM, Eico 516 Gen model 324 Heathkit lab scope. 899-8764 after 6 pm. Wm Cross, 4340 Station Rd, Erie, PA 16510

For Sale Heath 2M Transceiver. Mike Swaney, 435 East 28 Street, Erie, PA 16504. Phone 456-2544 on weekends only.

Free miscellaneous textbooks. Old samples, etc. Mostly business subjects 1950 - 1960 editions. Bair, WA3HDK 725-9226.

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Lake Shore Amateur Radio Association meets first Sunday each month.

ASSAULT ON A LANDMARK

The time was 9:00 AM . . . the date was January 8th . . . the weather was clear and cold . . . and the time was right for the climb to the top of the world.

The place was the old turnbull elevator shaft and the purpose was to investigate the possibilities of placing the W3ZIO two meter repeater at this location.

Powell Brown, K3QAY . . . Chuck Bliley, K3NAU . . . and myself began the climb on or about 9:30 in the morning with a varitronics 1½ watt walkie talkie and a "Brownie Special" coax vertical.

After checking with K3WTZ, who was making measurements on the signal and obtaining the key from the guard, we began the assault of the 265 steps leading to the room at the top.

From inside the metal enclosed shaft the signal from the walkie talkie was measured at regular levels and was found to be increasing. Brownie was leading the way up as he wanted to have someone to land on should he develop a nose bleed and pass out.

I was next, carrying the camera and extra equipment and Chuck followed with the brick and battery pack.

With heavy breath and tired legs, some ten minutes passed noticeably before the

Search For That Elusive Site

final steps were reached. Finally we were there!

Inside that massive room at the top of the shaft is a spacious void of exposed steel beams and glass.

On one side, toward the lake, the shoreline of Canada was clearly visible. With the failing eyesite aided by 7X35 binoculars all of the famous Long Point lights and much of the Long Point peninsula was visible.

Turning east, the view was much the same as one gets from the thruway, but with some visibility beyond the slight mound east of Byrd Drive. The area below the General Electric was shadowed by this obstruction, but not enough to cause any thoughts of abandoning the project because of it. Next, a view to the south revealed that this location was higher than the thruway, but not higher than the southerly rise of the plateau.

Off to the west were the tall sticks of the 3 UHF television stations and further to the west was a vast open plain.

By this time, a small plane was spotted at about eye level and it was then that we located the Erie International Airport. Man! was that a sight! Clear out

(continued on page 7)

to Fairview and beyond the shoreline was visible to the aided eye. The bubble water towers of Parker Metal were very clear and the cluster of water towers to the west of Fairview were seen.

I once had a dream about this tower. I dreamed that I had a station on a turntable in the center of this room, with a multiband rotory beam on the roof, and the turntable and beam were synchronized to point in the same direction.

Well, this trip of Saturday technicians were just not happy at climbing the steps to the room . . . we just had to see the roof. Besides, where in the world do you think you would put an antenna around here? In the window?

Well, up the ladder we went and out on that flat platform. Chuck and I took the camera, walkie talkie, tripod, coax vertical and mittens. Brownie was content to look out of the windows.

The sight from the roof was truly breath taking! It really wasn't much higher--it was the fact that you were out there in open space, almost 200 feet off the ground.

Brownie just had to see this! So we called down the open hatch to him to stick his head out, with a little coaxing and the help of an antenna to hold on to, he came out onto the roof. We had to have a picture of this, so Chuck put the camera on time release and shot a picture of Brownie (still gripping the antenna), himself (smiling), and me (calling for help on the varitronics) standing at the top of every Erie Hams dream QTH, showing the folks back home where we were on January the eighth, nineteen seventy-two, at 10:00 EST . . . on a clear, clear day.

W3ZLO, Chuck Smith

We'll have the pictures in the next issue. Didn't have time to get them developed for this issue--Editor

THE REPEATER STORY

This month's feature story

Most people never think of the repeaters they use without knowing it during their daily routine. One of the biggest repeater system is the voice repeaters used by the telephone company to beam network television to our homes. Your local network-affiliated radio station is more or less a repeater, the thruway communications system, the railroad, and soon our local police and transportation systems will be joining the ranks.

Repeaters have been with us for some time. It was generally known when radio was in its infancy that by repeating a distant station on another frequency at a higher power, a longer, more reliable communications system could be established. This system was used nationwide on the old 1.6MHZ police band when New York police were to contact San Francisco police. True, the first repeaters were by wire on the old telegraph lines, but this was tried and proven on radio when voice communications could be linked across country by key relay stations assigned to do just that.

Since radio was just beginning to grow during this time, the war boosted many technical developments in communications. After the war was over, much of the equipment that provided reliable communications for the U.S. and our allies was purchased by hams. If one looks closely at this equipment and its control heads, he will see that much of the ground control equipment had the repeat function on it. Adaptable to the repeater function were such pieces as the AN/PRC 10 . . . AN/VRC 16-17-18 . . . AN/GRC 26 and more.

True, much of this equipment was FM and in the low VHF Bands, but the AN/GRC 26 is not of this class. The GRC 26 is a complete teletype/voice/CW station operating with a BC610 at 500 watts from 1.5 to 18MHZ and could go to 30MHZ if you got the right B & W plug in coil for the final. And this whole station could fit

(continued on page 8)

Repeater (continued)

on the bed of a 2½ ton truck, tow a generator (running) and repeat voice, CW or teletype from any band to any band.

After the war the equipment manufacturer began concentrating on the public service frequencies as an outlet for their wares. After the commission moved the police off of 1.6MHz, shifted the broadcasters around and moved the commercial FM band to its present 88-108MHz band . . . we start the evaluation of the machine (repeater).

Repeaters starting in the 40's the meat of the point to point communications was between 30 and 40MHz with wideband FM equipment that ran somewhere near 30 watts of power. For the average city the size of Erie, this was a nice system. But for good old NYC and others . . . WOW! What confusion. They needed some help!

By this time TV started to make some noise and the Federal Radio Administration ripped off channel one from its allocations and handed it to public service to establish more channels for effective communications. This put one side of town on one frequency, another side somewhere else and so forth. On top of all this it required more operators to monitor and dispatch and general confusion again reigned!

Remember at this time a portable was a 75 pound box with two handles on it and usually required a sizeable trunk to carry it around. You see, receivers in this era were just not sensitive enough to run low power so one had to have at least 30 watts to get back to the base station.

For many years the battle of frequencies continued along. The change of the Federal Radio Administration to the Federal Communications Commission found some more reassignments of VHF frequencies. More than enough communications channels were contained in the 150 to 175 MHz band and they were dished out to private business, public service, taxi, railroad and the like. When equipment manufact-

urers began to bite into this piece of pie they again found the repeater. Some of the first to use it in this band were again the big city police departments.

Then came the railroads linking entire lines into tailed repeaters across entire states. Trucking companies joined in and then came telephone companies. By now the portable had found subminiature tubes and small batteries and could be carried in a small box the size of a lunch pail. Then the common carriers sprung up around the country with their expensive installations that were nothing more than a repeater with a selective calling system.

With all the communications going on the VHF bands and with others crying for more frequencies in the VHF segment the commission made a BIG ruling. From it's establishment headquarters it slammed the door on wide band FM in the 150 to 175 MHz band. No more would the 15 KHZ whistler ride hard-clipped audio around the busy town. No more would splatter zapp and fass punctuate spoken words by the operators of the base. For the great white father hath ruled that 3 KHZ narrowband FM will be the rule and the frequency tolerance of said communicators would be just as stiff . . .

Deep down in the system-owners pocket his money clip began to groan with fright and sorrow because the multi-million dollar investment he once had in radio wave emitters was of now and forever more of no value to him at all, or so he thought.

Enter, the amateur, King of the industry had just been slapped hard with the fact that he could not convert his beautiful radios to the new narrow band with ease, so he continued in business by buying new ones.

Civil defense, ham radio, AREC, RACES, and just about anyone else who uses the

(continued on page 9)

Repeaters (continued)

2 meter ham band knows that wide band FM can be put to use there, and some of that old "junk" will tune there very nicely.

Some sets were installed high atop hills with remote controls running to them. Some were boosted in power to the legal gallon. Others were installed in cars. Some were salvaged for parts; but the race was on, as hams all over the country talked many local business men out of their useless radio systems.

History has it that the early repeaters started on the west coast many of them operated by the owners of the famed "California Kilowatts". These were the many gentlemen who frequented the bands with a KW running in the house, and 10 (or more) in the outhouse. These band-its of the airwaves can still be found in the hills of California, running power on VHF. And many of them repeating their friend's all over California.

Well, now the fad caught on. All you had to do was get a big dandy wide band base station, make some technical changes to it, and give your community a repeater.

True to the tradition of hamdom, this was not exactly the picture. Hams bought the old junk and converted it to 2 meters; but now the picture changes. Hams, all born rebuilders, ripped into those boat anchors and stretched the output power, input sensitivity and selectivity curves to the limit and beyond and began to develop repeater systems much more complex than those ever heard on the commercial band. Tone encoding systems were allowed and added. Multiple repeater outputs on different bands were tried and used. Autopatching, multiple input frequencies and receiver sites, cross-linked repeaters covering entire states and other sophisticated systems were tried and used.

Developing along with this means of communication was the widespread use of SSB over AM and the adoption of space satellite communication.

During the Oscar series, a repeater satellite was launched and proved to be a reliable means of cross-country communications.

Talk of Repeaters begins in Erie

THE ERIE STORY

Meanwhile, back in the Erie area . . . the idea of a repeater for Erie was brought up at one of the Radio Association of Erie club meetings by Larry Herman W3JTF and his son, Bob K3IOX.

The idea was not new to the avid VHFer, but the majority of the DC band operators had only been introduced to the idea at that meeting and knew nothing more than that it would cost money.

As far as I can tell the idea lay somewhat dormant for a time, and, when I had completed my project of building the biggest FM Broadcast station in Western Pennsylvania, I again returned my thoughts to a repeater for Erie.

Not knowing of Larry's plans, or any others, I approached members of the RAE who were interested in a repeater and, with their support, began assembling parts for the machine.

It wasn't easy! The first rig, a RCA Carphone, would not fly on 146.94. The output of this machine 2E26's was everywhere. After about a year of assembling buying, borrowing and trading, General Electric Transistorized Progress Line (TPL) receiver was obtained by the repeater group and final assembly was begun.

On the evening of January 22, 1971, K3VXE/mobile keyed up the W3ZLO repeater with it's low power output and the history of the mighty voice of Erie began. Next in was WA3GIV then WA3FFD and others.

The first group was small--each shelling out equally for necessary equipment. Then the repeater grew. First with a voice ID that David Flinn from ECARS let the entire channel 35 viewing audience
(continued on page 10)

Repeaters (continued)

hear when he keyed a walkie talkie on the Jean Carnes show last spring.

Then came the move to a two site repeater to get away from the overloading of the very sensitive receiver by the transmitter.

Following this came an increase to 30 watts on a groundplane. By this time the signal could be heard in Canada, the E.O.C., and often in nearby Fredonia when the skip was good. (Don't laugh! WA5LVT was QSOed once last summer on 146.94)

Then came the linkup with Ashtabula on 145.0MHz that set up an 80 mile feedback from the receiver site in Erie, to Ashtabula, back to Erie. Latest improvements include the addition of the solid-state ID unit and high power.

The repeater has helped many a traveler on I-90 to find lodging, gas, food, and assistance. It helped save a little child's life by being there to summon help. It has linked old friends more than once. It provided a link back to Erie from the Field Day site, and given many a traveler on the lake the weather forecast. It has been there and is there when it is needed.

Just take it off the air for 5 minutes anytime of the day or night and listen to the cries of pain. Sometimes maintenance is impossible to do due to the heavy load of traffic on the machine. Seems Murphy has a law that says that the machine gets busy when the maintenance log needs filled.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Onward and upward! Even as this is being made to move the transmitter to the top of the old Turnbull Elevator Shaft and the receiver to a tower at the Bliley Electric Company. Also to be added is a link to and from nearby Ashtabula, touchtone telephone access and more.

(continued)

In a year the machine has grown to this and by next year we hope it has grown just as much. It is only because the hams of Erie have become active on it, have supported it, and have used it.

If you would like to listen to it, try 146.94MHz any time. All it takes is an old police monitor that can be pulled down that far, or an old FM radio that can pulled up that far. Many of the local radio supply houses have commercial radios for sale; or, you can modify an old business band rig. The cost to use the repeater presently is a dollar a month. These dues will increase as additions are made, but not to an unreasonable figure. For those who are not users but would care to support the repeater a dollar contribution per month would be welcomed.

For any information about the W3ZLO repeater, contact any of the members and they will be more than happy to assist you.

-Chuck Smith, W3ZLO

LETTERS From Our Readers

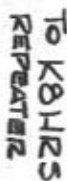
Hi OM!

Enclosing dues for couple years. "I thought maybe Gross would be a good sport and pay mine too," but I guess old moneybags is going to take his with him.

You might consider a plan whereby 3 yrs. dues could be paid for \$5. Like QCWA does - would save you lots of time and bother I'm sure. Seems like you don't promote membership enough in your monthly publication. Maybe a handy coupon, even a small one, would make it easier. Seldom do we see the dues mentioned - here we belong to ARRL, QCWA, OOT, SWOP, and AWA, so some times its hard to remember what each one's dues are. These are just thoughts for whatever assessment you may wish to give them. 73

Eli, W8GR

146,34 INPUT



Property of
K8H125 CLUB

Property of K3VTZ

**TOUCH
TONE
PAD**

R.A.E. REPEATER BLOCK DIAGRAM

STRAYS

W3KPJ - Hank retired from an eight-hour-a-day job to take on a twenty-four hour one. He's busy organizing golden age clubs.

WA3HDK - Bob what is this we hear that the auction on April 8 will be different this year? Sounds like the best idea yet.

K3PAJ - Frank can soon start spending that money he's been hoarding. You don't look 65 Frank.

W3ZLO - Heard you went all the way to Dunkirk with the 270 in the car and left the mike at home. All work on 2 (and a persistent XYL) can lead to things like that.

W3MAU - Joe has that new HW 100 on the air.

WA3GMV - McDowell ARC is busy constructing a private shack room in the electronics lab.

WA7SNT - Fred Tate's new call in Tucson. Fred says his new house on a 1 1/2 acre lot will be finished in Feb.

K3VXE - Ron has helped Fred get set up temporarily and is busy keeping Fort Huachuca supplied with electricity.

W3ZLO - Chuck, will you find that Crab Nebula? Don't use WA3HSR for sky navigator and you might.

K3EIU - Fred had assistance from Murphy in trying to set an antenna-lowering record. He should be back on the air by the time you read this.

K3VEF - Lowell why didn't you secure that beam before it blew down?

K3QET - Jim is heard on the SN Monday through Friday at 5:30 on 3960 looking for Eric.

WA3HSR - congratulations, Mike, on being named EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATOR for Erie County.

WA3HRJ - Jim enjoys riding about on his motorcycle. So far he's only wiped out once, but no mobile gear yet.

WA3MAU - Joe is looking for bigger and better antennas come spring to compliment his HW-101.

K3QHO - Jim enjoys looking at the stars almost as much as 2-FM.

K3VEF - After losing his antennas to the wind, Lowell quickly got busy and gets out better than ever now.

K3PCI - John must have twisted the knob on his transmitter the wrong way. Did you find all the pieces yet John?

WA3RUK - Joe's fine signal is being heard in LEEN regularly.

WA3NGC - Hey Frank, when are you going to put a clipper on that clock?

WA3GMV - McDowell ARC has been keeping Erie in ECARS during the day.

K3HFL - Bud might be going west.

WA3RUK - That down east accent makes it hard to tell the difference between R & I. Good thing the XYL can speak like the rest.

K3UPC - John is it true that you have been practicing your auctioneering so that maybe your voice will hold out on April 8?

WA3ISN - Rick is trying to keep some thing secret about FD 72. Let's have a hint Rick.

WA3GIV - WA7SNT we hear Fred more now on 10 than we did when he lived here.

K3QHO - Welcome back to active ham status, Jim.

K3NAU - Chuck wants faster mail service. He can't wait to use those advanced frequencies. Congratulations Chuck

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

This month's activity meeting will host representatives from the three Military Affiliate Radio Services (MARS) who will describe their activities in the MARS program. The meeting will convene at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Old French Road just south of the VA hospital, at 8:00 PM February 17. The representative for Army Mars is Gene Gruber, A3NFX, winner of this years First Army Annual Commanders Trophy Award; for the Navy Mars, John Squire, K3UPC/NOGBQ, assistant to the area Coordinator will be the Representative Air Force MARS will also furnish a speaker but I have no information as yet on him. Short biographical sketches have been requested from each and appear below.

GENE GRUBER, A3NFX to represent Army MARS

Gene, who has been a ham since 1934, has represented Army MARS continuously since 1952. He also belonged to the forerunner of MARS (Army Amateur Radio System) for a time during the 30's.

Since Gene has retired - his vocation was tool and die making - he averages 100+ hours of MARS operation. He served as radar instructor in WWII. So you see Gene has ample experience to back up his statements about Army MARS.

Gene keeps quite busy with radio. One time, while we were discussing his long hours of service, he gave this excellent reply, "what better way to while away the long hours of retirement than this."

I've had many opportunities to eyeball him and could go on for pages . . . but I promised to keep it short. Here are some of his other duties and/or accomplishments: He is SNCS for the Pittsburgh River District Net who's job it is to keep tabs on the flood conditions of the watershed for the Ohio River Basin. He is frequently measuring officer for First Army Mars. Handles an average of 70 messages per month. Has had several technical articles published in Army Mars communications (ex. Operating the BC-610 on SSB, How to use Digital Counter for Measuring HF RF signals, and a 75M "Bazooka" dipole which will also appear in QUA-RAE. He is proficient in RTTY but can also operate SSB, AM or CW. A knowledgeable ham, helpful person and general all-round good guy . . . You'll enjoy talking with him at the February

-Bob, WA3HDK

THE FINAL FINAL

This will be brief this month because of room limitations. First I must apologize for the wrong call on the repeater picture last month. Should have been K3WTZ and not QWZ. Sorry Bob. Also typographical error omitted line of FINAL FINAL. Should have said, "thumbnail sketch of MARS speakers. We need someone to write about the goings-on for the IEEN. Any volunteers?"

The RAE Directory, listing the name, address and telephone number of each member is now in printing and will not be ready to mail with this issue. Members will receive their copy with any new listings with the next month's QUA-RAE. FOR OUR MEMBERS ONLY. Join now to get yours!!!!

RAE Membership Application

Call sign _____ Dues \$1.50 per year
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Area _____ ARRL _____ Yes _____ No _____

• FEBRUARY 1972 •

-14-

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 R.A.E. BUSINESS MEETING 8PM	4	5 ARRL DX CONTEST "PHONE"
6 NETS 6 & 10 Meters ARRL DX CONTEST "PHONE"	7	8 1910 Boy Scouts Founded	9	10 WLAW "QUALIFYING RUN"	11	12
13 NETS 6 & 10 Meters ARRL PM.T.	14 ST. VALENTINE DAY	15	16 ASH WEDNESDAY	17 R.A.E. ACTIVITIES MEETING 8PM	18	19 ARRL DX CONTEST "CW"
20 NETS 6 & 10 Meters ARRL DX CONTEST "CW"	21	22 GEO. WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY 1732	23	24	25	26 ARRL YL/OM CONTEST
27 NETS 6 & 10 Meters YL/OM CONTEST	28	29	FEB. 5 to 13 : NOVICE ROUNDUP MARCH 4 & 5 : ARRL DX CONTEST "PHONE" MARCH 18 & 19 : ARRL DX CONTEST "CW" APRIL 8 : R.A.E. ANNUAL AUCTION (SEE FLYER)			

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TOO LATE TO MENTION

Material submitted after deadline but too important to wait until next month.

J A Squire K3UPC-NOVBZ Navy Mars Speaker

I first joined late in 1962 with continuous service since then.

I have handled traffic during the following emergencies: Alaskan Earthquake, Enterprise Explosion and California Earthquake.

I handle messages to servicemen and from servicemen located at major military concentrations around the world. My heaviest volume traffic usually is at Christmas time - Easter - Mother's day etc.

I was recently appointed as Assistant to Area Coordinator - specifically for membership. I've been assigned administrative call sign NOGBQ/6.

I am Net Control Station Tuesday 0300Z 4016.5KHZ LSB Western Pa. Traffic Net 4WIB and Alternate Net Control Sunday 0001Z 4016.5KHZ LSB combined Eastern Western Pa. Traffic Net 4XIB.

Note: These nets meet each night same time with others as net control stations. You are free to listen, however, to check into the net you must have an official Navy Mars call sign and station license.

TRISTATE NET NEWS - VHF SOCIETY MEETING

If all goes according to schedule, you should be reading this before the Erie Metropolitan VHF Society Annual meeting, February 6th. If we miss the printing deadline and you miss the meeting because you couldn't find this QTH, at least you'll know where it is now, so drop in for an eyeball sometime!

At any rate, the meeting is scheduled for 2 PM (or there about) and the place is 4575 Southern Drive. If you've never heard of Southern Drive, don't feel bad, I never did either before I moved out here! Go out towards the Airport, to 26th and Asbury roads, turn south on Asbury, go two blocks and turn left onto Budd Drive. Veer to the right about half a block down Budd, and you'll be on Southern - continue on half a block to a grey house on the right with a minibeam in the back.

If you get lost, we'll have talk in's on 6 and 2 meters.

Don't worry if you're not a member of the VHF Society, we'll be glad to relieve you of \$1.00 for this sum you not only get to be a member but you'll get your fill of food and drink too!

So come on out February 6 and meet the fellas on the other side of the mike.

Almost forgot to mention - the real purpose of the VHF Society meeting is election of officers for 1972 and a general business and policy meeting. 73

Chuck Lewis K3ATZ, Net Manager

Directors Notebook:

Agreements are being worked out for the lease of the repeater equipment by the RAE for a token fee with RAE to assume maintenance of the equipment.

(continued on page 16)

Directors notebook (continued)

Plans are developing for the RAE Auction. It will be a good chance to pick up that piece of gear you need and also a fine chance to unload that gear you no longer use that someone else can put to good use.

You will kick yourself around the block if you pass up the opportunity. So plan now to take full advantage of the chance by dusting off that unused gear.

Prez Sez -

This article will have to be short if I am to get it included in this issue. By the time you read this the SET will be history. I wish to thank everyone who made this exercise interesting and successful.

Last month business meeting was very spirited and a large amount of time was devoted to the highly spirited 2M-FM Repeater Group. The Board of Directors is making leasing agreements for the repeater sites and equipment to assure RAE members a club project to be proud of. There is more data regarding this in the Repeater section of QUA-RAE.

One bit of late news I have to share is that I just received the Green Light from Lynthane-Taylor to use the Turnball Elevator Tower for the Repeater Transmitter site. We must now have the Board of Directors process the paperwork and arrange the lease.

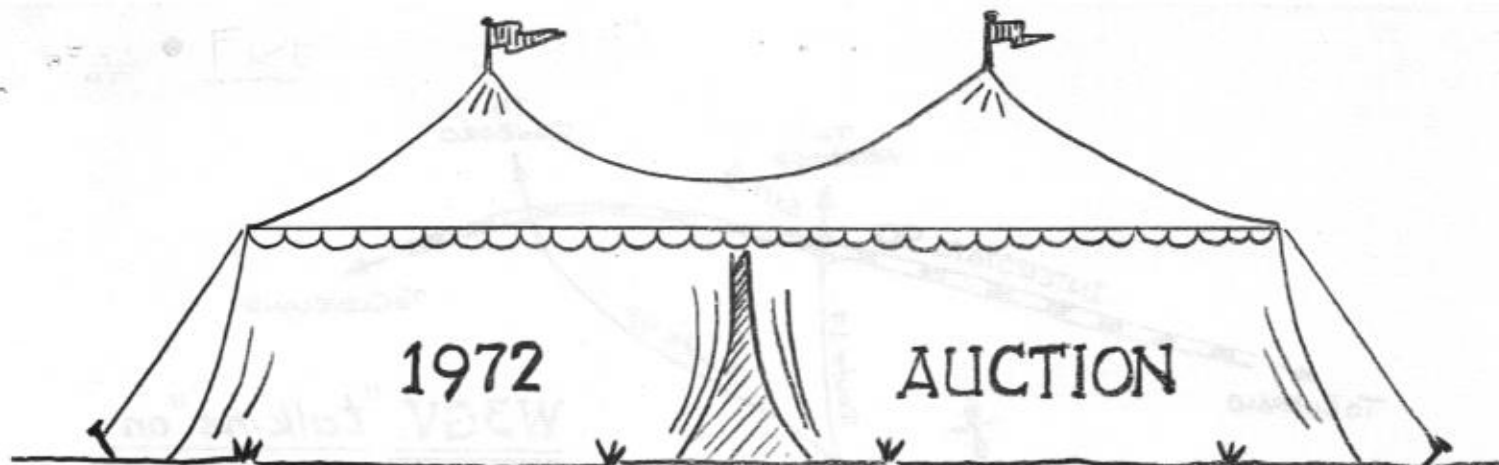
See you at the next meeting. 73

K3QAY "Brownie"

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST REPORT

This year's Simulated Emergency Test is over. Once again there was local activity, and this year Erie hams helped produce a successful one. Deviating from the "run of the mill" snowstorm, tornado and power failure drills, the 1972 SET involved a manhunt of two escaped prisoners. Mobiles on 10 and 2 meters were issued packets and clues from manhunt control. Starting about 10:30 AM, the mobiles studied, translated and executed the clues to perfection, finding both prisoners by 4:00 PM. Prisoner number 1, Bob, WA3HDK, was found by Rick, WA3LSY/M while both Ken, W3MED/M and Doug, WA3HRH/M were closing in on prisoner number 2, John, WN3PSV. Both findings were on 10 meters. Six meters was bustling with traffic as all routine messages generated on the other bands were funnelled onto 6 meters. Two meter FM and the W3ZIO repeater, was active with mobiles and most vital in relaying new clues from Emergency Coordinator, Barry, WA3GSH. Both he and Chuck, W3ZIO deserve much credit for masterminding this year's exercise. With next year's SET only 12 months away, hope is rising that it will be even more successful, with more activities for both mobiles and fixed stations. A big THANK YOU goes to all NCS and others who checked in to help. Thanks also must go to our two "prisoners" for being such good sports about the whole thing. See you next year.

Mike WA3HSR
EC Erie County



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AT 2:00 PM WITH REGISTRATION OF ITEMS FROM 12:00 PM TO 2:00 PM.

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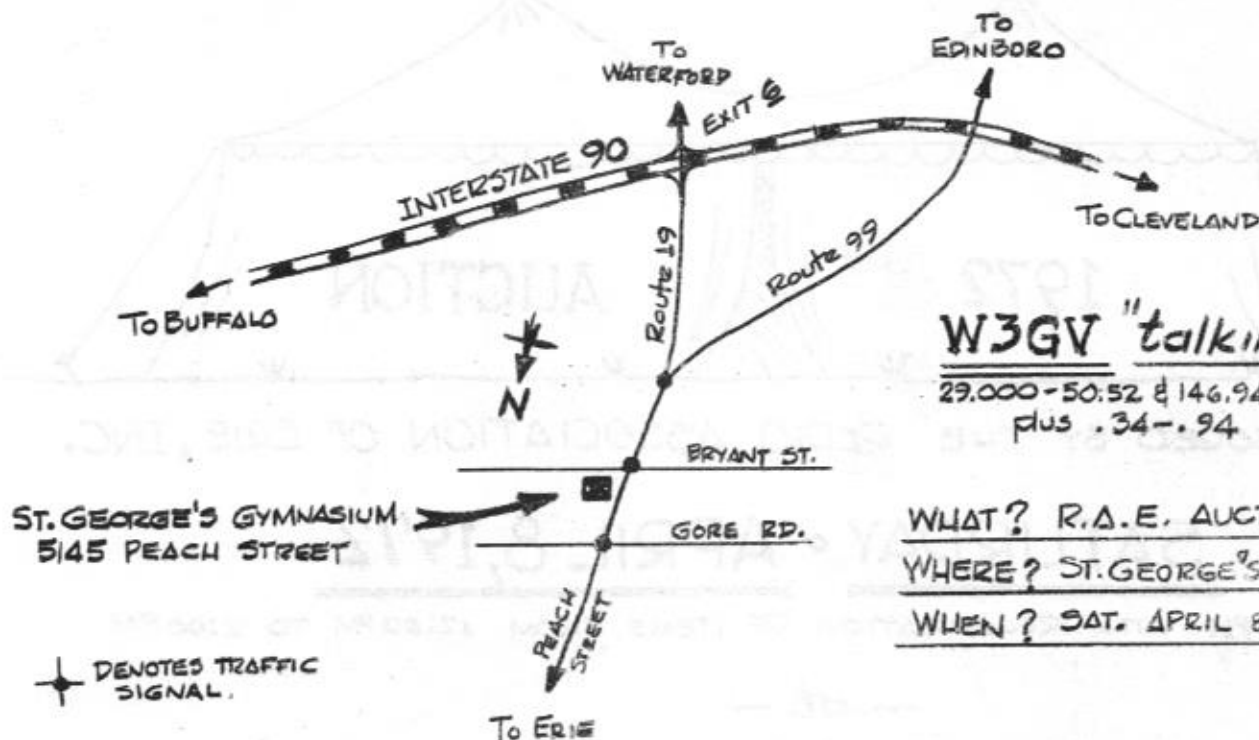
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

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